



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

BRIEFING: May 5, 2011 BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #7

TO: Chairman Pringle and Authority Board Members

FROM: Jeff Abercombie, Regional Director

DATE: April 27, 2011

RE: Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis

Discussion

This agenda item is intended to serve as the release of the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis (AA) Report for the Merced to Fresno Section and provide the public and the Board an opportunity to be briefed on the current state of analyzing the alignment, station alternatives, and maintenance facilities for this project. The full Supplemental AA for the Merced to Fresno Section is posted on the CHSRA website. The Supplemental AA proposes changes to the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report for the Merced to Fresno Section, previously approved at the August, 2010 Board Meeting .

Subject to United States Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer concurrence as part of the Clean Water Act § 404 (b)(1)/National Environmental Protection Act NEPA integration process, and considering the technical data and the extensive community, stakeholder, and agency input received, Authority staff recommends proceeding with the alignment and station alternatives changes identified in the attached Executive Summary of the Supplemental AA for the Merced to Fresno Section EIR/EIS.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends approval of the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis.

Attachments:

- ✓ Supplemental AA Report Executive Summary